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Message Text

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45
ACTION SIG-04

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 /014 W
---------- 043868
P 161205Z MAY 74
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHC PRIORITY 6694

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FOR IG SUTTERLIN FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AAUD, EG
SUBJ: CAIRO INSPECTION

REF: STATE 098896

1. I MUCH APPRECIATE YOUR UNDERSTANDING MESSAGE AND RECOGNIZE UTILITY OF INSPECTORS VISITING CAIRO IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR OVERALL NEA BUREAU INSPECTION. AGAINST THIS I MUST WEIGH LIKELY DEGRADING OF EMBASSY'S STILL SKELETAL CAPABILITY TO PERFORM ITS SUBSTANTIVE FUCTIONS DURING PERIOD OF INSPECTION, EVEN IF INSPECTION IS IN MODIFIED FORM YOU SUGGEST.

2. MY SPECIFIC CONCERNS FOLLOW:
A. YOU INDICATE ONLY MINIMAL SECRETARIAL SUPPORT WILL BE REQUIRED. I MUST ASSUME THAT THIS CONNOT BE LESS THAN AT LEAST ONE SECRETARY WHO SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE TO INSPECTORS AS NEEDED. THIS IS NOT AN UNREASONABLE REQUIREMENT IF LEVIED AGAINST A POST WITH ADEQUATE SECRETARIAL COMPLEMENT. WE, AT THE MOMENT, HAVE ONLY THREE OF THE FIVE AMERICAN SECRETARIES INCLUDED ON OUR T.O. ONE IS MY SECRETARY, ONE IS THE A/DCM'S AND ONE IS CURRENTLY HANDLING THE OUTPUT OF FOUR OFFICERS. AS I HAVE PREVIOUSLY REPORTED TO THE
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DEPARTMENT, ALL ARE OVERWORKED AND EXHAUSTED. IN

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EARLY JUNE I WILL HAVE A NEW SECRETARY WHO WILL JUST HAVE ARRIVED
A WEEK EARLIER AND WILL STILL BE LEARNING. WE DO NOT AT PRESENT
HAVE ETAS ON TWO REMAINING SECRETARIES.
YOU WILL APPRECIATE MY MIS-GIVINGS THAT DEDICATING EVEN A MINIMUM
OF ONE SECRETARY TO THREE INSPECTORS MUST INEVITABLY
HAMSTRING OUR ABILITY TO BE RESPONSIVE TO DEPARTMENT
EXCHANGES. THIS WOULD BE PARTICULARALY DIFFICULT AT THE PRESENT
CRITICAL TIME WHEN CONSTANT HIGH PRECEDENCE
EXCHANGES ARE TAKING PLACE BETWEEN WASHINGTON
AND CAIRO AND DATA MUST URGENTLY BE PROVIDED ON
VARIOUS SUBJECTS WHICH COULD NOT BE TOUCHED FOR
LAST SEVEN YEARS.
B. IN EARLY JUNE ONLY ABOUT HALF OF THE
AMERICAN STAFF OF THE EMBASSY WILL HAVE BEEN HERE
MORE THAN THREE MONTHS. MOST STAFF MEMBERS WILL
STILL BE GROPING THEIR WAY THROUGH THE VAST
CAIRO BUREAUCRACY.
C. ALTHOUGH YOUR PARAGRAPH 2 SUGGESTS
INSPECTORS "CONSULT IN CAIRO FEW DAYS, PARA 5 SAYS
MODIFIED INSPECTION SHOULD LAST FROM JUNE 4-12;
I.E. EIGHT DAYS. THIS IS A LONG TIME TO HAVE TO
DIVERT CRITICALLY NEEDED STAFF ATTENTION FROM
ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS.
D. FINALLY, A CONDUCT-OF-RELATIONS
INSPECTION COMING ONLY THREE MONTHS AFTER DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WHILE THE
PARAMETERS OF THE NEW RELATIONSHIP THAT WE ARE
NOW SEEKING TO BUILD WITH EGYPT ARE STILL BEING
DEFINED, SEEMS ON THE SURFACE TO BE PREMATURE
AND A BIT MEANINGLESS.

3. IF NEVERTHELESS IT IS ESSENTIAL TO YOUR
OVERALL EFFORT, I WOULD RELUCTANTLY CONCUR IN A
CONSULTATIVE VISIT BY THE PROPOSED INSPECTORS.
IN THAT CASE, HOWEVER,IT WOULD RELIEVE US OF AN
ENORMOUS BURDEN IF YOU TDYED A SECRETARY FOR
THEIR USE WHILE HERE.
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